

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**

PROJECT FACT SHEET

OCTOBER 1993

TAG REVIEW DATE: 20 MARCH 1997

HNC REVISION: 5 MAY 1998

1. SITE NAME: Camp Beale & Beale Air Force Base

SITE NUMBER: J09CA013600

LOCATION:

City: Marysville
County: Yuba & Nevada
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA013600

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 1

TAG RAC: 1

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

Camp Beale and Beale Air Force Base (AFB) are located in Yuba and Nevada Counties between the Bear and Yuba Rivers approximately 10 miles east of Marysville, California. The site is about 40 miles north of Sacramento and 130 miles northeast of San Francisco.

Originally, this area of grasslands and rolling hills was a settling point for miners who sought their fortunes in the mines. Today, the former military land is used mainly for cattle and horse grazing with some housing in the area.

The Archives Search Report ASR lists two sites and site numbers: Camp Beale, J09CA076600, and Camp Beale and Beale AFB, J09CA013600. However, since the time that the ASR was completed the J09CA076600 site has been declared ineligible for FUDS work. The property listed as J09CA076600 is actually part of J09CA013600.

4. SITE HISTORY:

As training ground for the 13th Armored Division and the 81st and 96th Infantry, former Camp Beale used a variety of conventional weapons on its ranges. There is historical documentation for the use of light, medium, and heavy tanks, self-propelled anti-tank guns, 37mm anti-aircraft guns, 105mm howitzers, and 81mm and 4.2" mortars. It is believed that all of these weapons except the 4.2" mortar were extensively used in the range areas of Camp Beale. The 4.2" mortar was most likely restricted to the Chemical School and to limited test firings by the Army Service Force (ASF) depot.

Training areas known to have been used by the Army at Camp Beale and Beale AFB include: two transition courses; a field target range, tank; a combat course; a combat village; a fortified area; a mortar range; two moving vehicle & moving target ranges; a moving target range; and two artillery ranges.

Training areas known to have been used by the Air Force (and Navy) at Camp Beale and Beale AFB include: two night targets; five targets; a designated Navy target; a ground to air gunnery range; most of the range fan for a .50 caliber transition range; portions of a .30 caliber infiltration range; most of a .30 caliber close combat range; most of a .30 caliber transition range; and most of the range fan for a 57mm recoilless rifle, 60mm mortar and .50 caliber machine gun range. A demolition area was also included in the FUDS known as Camp Beale and Beale AFB.

In 1943, recommendations were in progress to establish a Chemical Warfare School on the West Coast. Camp Beale was selected and on 13 December 1943 the school was opened and designated the West Coast Chemical Warfare School. By 1944, the threat of chemical warfare with the Japanese had diminished and in June 1944, the school was moved to Rocky Mountain Arsenal. In 1945, the Camp Beale ASF Depot was designated as a point for classification, rehabilitation, and repacking of CWS material returning from the Pacific Theater. It performed this function through 1947, when it ceased operations as part of the closure of Camp Beale.

HNC Safety has determined that all evidence of CWM contamination is on the still-active portions of Beale AFB.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA "Camp Beale and Beale AFB "

Size, Acres: 62,550.36

Former Use: Division training ranges, bomb targets

Present Use: Pasture, some houses

Probable End Use: More housing development

Ordinance Presence: Confirmed (several range clearances)

Type: Partial listing: 37mm HE; 3-lb practice bomb; bazooka; 60-mm mortar; 75mm HE; 104mm HE;

6. CURRENT STATUS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, completed a draft ASR in October 1993. The original Technical Advisory Group (TAG) RAC was a RAC 1 EE/CA. A site inspection trip was performed 7-8 January 1998 to determine if the site constituted a RAC 1 EE/CA. The site team drove around the former site on 8 January 1998. The site is made up of the Spencerville WMA and Private Land. However, parts of the site are being developed into residential areas. There has been one recent find of OE in the area. The OE object was thought to be a 2.36 rocket or a MK II grenade. According to Sgt. Mike Hughes of the Nevada Co. Sheriff's Department, if there is a true OE problem it will not be discovered for 5 or 10 more years due to the extreme ruralness of the area. The site team was unable to do much walking of the area, since no rights of entry had been obtained.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Ecology: There were not any listings of threatened or endangered species or unusual natural communities for Camp Beale in the Natural Diversity Data Base. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that one threatened species, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, may occur in the area. Several candidate species for listing may also occur in the area. See paragraph 4.5 in the Findings for a more complete listing. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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